ShopBot®

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Project: Coin Bank

Overview: Coin banks are fun to look at and a great way to teach youngsters to start saving their pennies!! This easy to cut and easy to assemble project is a great addition to a child's bedroom.

Materials: This example was cut by taking a 2"x6" from Lowes and glued up into a rectangle. A scrap piece of Plexiglas for the 6" circles.

Minimum Cutting Area: 1.5" x 18" x 14" Note the material is 1.5" thick so one needs to pay attention how much bit they have sticking out of their collet so they do not run their router into the table.
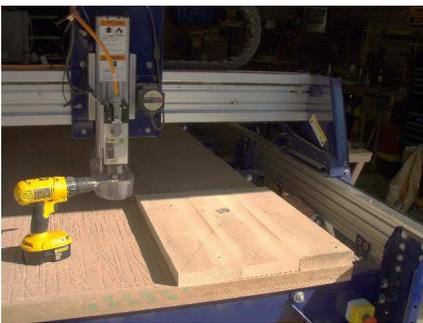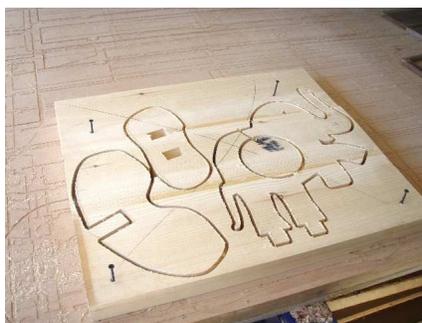
Bit Size: 1/4"

Finishing: Paint

Always read the entire project details before starting to cut the file yourself
Account for the thickness of the physical material on hand and the material thickness in the file
This file is zeroed to the tables surface, Zero your bit to the tables surface

Included with the cut file is a hold down toolpath that shows where it is safe to put screws. Run this file separately from the cut file so you can screw down the work piece, or if you have a different size board or different type of hold down disregard the file.
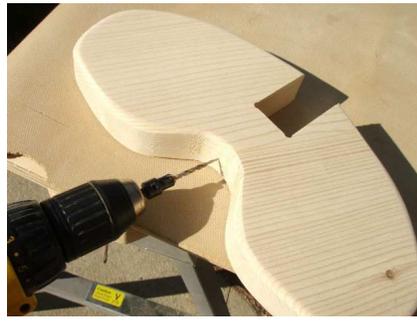
As the file starts cutting the profile of the parts make sure the cut is going all the way through the work piece and into the table surface. If you need to adjust any part of the file make sure you do not remove the hold down or you will loose position.

Tabs are use to hold all the pieces to the scrap wood attached to them. Use a utility knife to score these edges. Never try to push a piece out without cutting the tab, it will tear the grain on your project. Sand remaining tab flat.
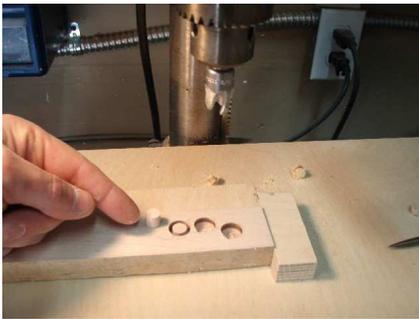
Route and sand the entire project to ones liking. Remember that this will be handled by children and should be free of any sharp corners or splintered wood.

For extra strength to hold the elephants ears in place a post-Shopbot step would be countersinking a hole through the ears into the elephants head.

Fearing for the worse like this guy being dropped off a dresser, the countersink hole is filled with a 3" wood screw to hold the ears in place.

One can by wooden plugs to plug the countersunk hole or use a plug cutter to make your own. Apply glue to the plug and use a rubber mallet to fill the hole on top of the elephants head.

File the plug smooth so it leaves no trace. Once the project is painted nobody will be able to see that it was plugged.

Run a small bead of caulk around the joint of the elephant ear and body parts. This will harden and give a nice look once the paint is applied.

Spray or brush the elephant body and project base separately before finishing the project.
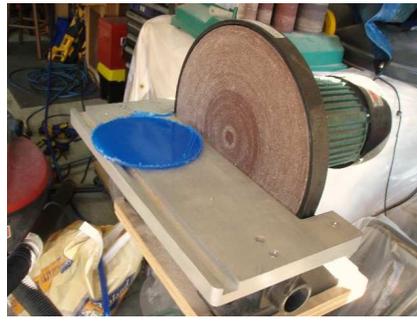

Make sure the tenons on the bottom of the elephants feet fit into the pockets on the base. Sand them if need be, just do not force and break off the tenons.

After some glue has been dropped into the pockets, use a rubber mallet to help secure the mortise and tenon joint together.

Plexiglas is cut at a much higher RPM and uses a O flute bit to cut. This bit is included in the Router Bit Starter Kit.

Sand off the tabs and run some hand sand paper down the edges of the Plexiglas so it is smooth to the touch.

Use a center punch and a drill to layout the holes for installing the Plexiglas. This can be done on the ShopBot with a bit change, but it is quicker to do this step by hand.

Depending on the size screw one chooses to use will depend on the pilot bit size. Make sure the proper sizes are chosen before drilling.

To ensure the Plexiglas is not cracked by over tightening, use a hand driven screwdriver and put the screws in by hand.

Insert coins through the slot on the elephants back. Once the bank is full simply remove the screws from one side of the project and empty the contents.

After building the elephant bank try other animals that kids are fond of. Think of ways to make the project thicker so a bigger belly can be used for storing coins.